



I, Sumio Aoki being familiar with the Japanese and English languages, and hereby declare that I am the translator of the documents attached and certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the following is a true and accurate translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 213369/2002, filed on July 23, 2002

Signed

Sumio Aoki

Sumio Aoki

Date

October 1, 2005

Appendix A

PATENT OFFICE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following application
as filed with this Office.

Date of Application : July 23, 2002

Application Number : Patent Application No. 213369 /2002

Applicant : NGK Insulators, Ltd.

May 6, 2003

Commissioner,

Patent Office

Shin-ichiro-Ohta

Issue No.: 3033214/2003

[Document Name]	Patent Application
[Docket Number]	02P00365
[Date Filed]	July 23, 2002
[Filed to]	Commissioner, Patent Office
[International Patent Classification]	H01L 21/68
[Title of the device]	A METHOD OF PRODUCING JOINED BODIES AND JOINED BODIES
[Number of Claims]	18
[Inventor]	
[Domicile or Residence]	c/o NGK Insulators, Ltd. 2-56, Suda-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya-city, Aichi-prefecture, 467-8530 Japan
[Name]	Tomoyuki FUJII
[Inventor]	
[Domicile or Residence]	c/o NGK Insulators, Ltd. 2-56, Suda-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya-city, Aichi-prefecture, 467-8530 Japan
[Name]	Hideyoshi TSURUTA
[Inventor]	
[Domicile or Residence]	c/o NGK Insulators, Ltd. 2-56, Suda-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya-city, Aichi-prefecture, 467-8530 Japan
[Name]	Tetsuya KAWAJIRI
[Patent Applicant]	
[Discernment Number]	000004064
[Name or Appellation]	NGK Insulators, Ltd.
[Agent]	
[Identification Number]	100097490
[Patent Attorney]	

[Name or Appellation]	Masutoshi HOSODA
[Selected Agent]	
[Identification Number]	100097504
[Patent Attorney]	
[Name or Appellation]	Sumio AOKI
[Designation of Fee]	
[Number of Advance payment Register]	082578
[Amount Paid]	21,000 Yen
[List of Appended Objects]	
[Object Name]	Specification 1
[Object Name]	Drawings 1
[Object Name]	Abstract 1
[Number of General Power of Attorney]	0103626
[Demand of Proof]	Demanded

[Name of Document] Specification

[Title of the Invention] A METHOD OF PRODUCING JOINED BODIES AND JOINED BODIES

[Scope of Claims]

[Claim 1] A method of producing a joined body of a first member containing at least a ceramics and a second member containing at least a metal or a metal composite; the method comprising the steps of:

providing an adhesive composed of a metal containing at least indium and a material containing at least a component capable of reducing the melting point of indium between said first and second members to provide a laminate; and heating said laminate at a temperature in solid-liquid coexisting range of an alloy comprising indium and said component to join said first and second members.

[Claim 2] The method of claim 1, wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of tin, silver and the alloys thereof.

[Claim 3] The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said laminate is heated at a temperature not higher than 155 °C.

[Claim 4] The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said laminate is heated while said laminate is subjected to isostatic pressing.

[Claim 5] The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

vacuum packaging said laminate, and containing said packaged laminate in a sealed container filled with an inert gas,

wherein said laminate is subjected to isostatic pressing in said container with said inert gas.

[Claim 6] The method of claim 4 or 5, further comprising the step of reducing the temperature of said laminate after said heating to room temperature while

said isostatic pressing of said laminate is continued.

[Claim 7] The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said adhesive has a shape of a foil.

[Claim 8] The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said material for reducing melting point is provided between said adhesive and said first member.

[Claim 9] The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said material for reducing melting point has a shape of a foil or film.

[Claim 10] The method of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said first member is a semiconductor wafer supporting member.

[Claim 11] The method of claim 10, wherein said supporting member is an electrostatic chuck and said second member is a cooling flange.

[Claim 12] The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein a first hole is provided in said first member, a second hole is provided in said second member, said method further comprising the step of providing an air-tight sealing member between said first hole and said adhesive and between said second hole and said adhesive when said first and second members are laminated so that said sealing member directly contacts with said first and second members to secure sealing.

[Claim 13] A joined body produced by the method of any one of claims 1 to 12.

[Claim 14] A joined body comprising a first member containing at least a ceramics, a second member containing at least a metal or a metal composite and a joining layer between said first and second members;

wherein said joining layer comprises a phase of an alloy containing indium and a component capable of reducing the melting point of indium.

[Claim 15] The joined body of claim 14, wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of tin, silver and the alloys thereof.

[Claim 16] The joined body of claim 14 or 15, wherein said first member is a semiconductor wafer supporting member.

[Claim 17] The joined body of claim 16, wherein said supporting member is an electrostatic chuck and said second member is a cooling flange.

[Claim 18] The joined body of any one of claims 14 to 17 further comprising an air-tight sealing member, wherein a first hole is formed in said first member, a second hole is formed in said second member, said sealing member is provided between said first hole and said joining layer and between said second hole and said joining layer, and said sealing member directly contacts said first and second members.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

(0001)

[Technical Field to which the invention pertains]

The invention relates to a method of joining a first member comprising at least a ceramics and a second member comprising a metal or metal composite, and a joined body thereof.

(0002)

[Prior Art]

In a semiconductor processing such as CVD, sputtering and etching, a semiconductor wafer is mounted on a so-called susceptor. The wafer is then processed by generating plasma in a process chamber, or by heating a reaction gas so that the gas is dissociated. It has been known to use a ceramic electrostatic chuck as a susceptor and to adsorb the wafer onto the susceptor while the wafer is processed. It has been also known to use a ceramic heater as a susceptor and to mount the wafer on the heater, which is directly heated. It is necessary to reduce the temperature change during the processing of the wafer on the susceptor, for improving the productivity of the wafer. For this, it is necessary to cool the wafer for compensating the incidence of heat due to plasma generation so that the temperature of the wafer is controlled. A cooling system is thus connected with

the susceptor.

(0003) It has been proposed a technique for joining an electrostatic chuck with a cooling board of water cooling system by means of metal flange (Japanese patent laid-open publication 3-3249A). According to the technique, an electrostatic chuck made of alumina is bonded with a cooling flange made of aluminum with indium. According to Japanese patent publication 4-287344A, a susceptor and a metal cooling board are joined with each other by means of paste-like silicone resin.

(0004)

[Problems to be solved by the Invention]

When indium or silicone resin adhesive composition is used as an adhesive for joining a ceramic electrostatic chuck and a water cooling flange made of a metal, however, an insufficient pressure during the joining process may deteriorate a flatness of a semiconductor wafer adsorption face of the chuck. The wafer is adsorbed onto the adsorption face of the chuck during the processing of the wafer. If the flatness of the adsorption face is deteriorated, the chuck may be out of a specification so that its production yield is reduced. Moreover, when a back side gas is supplied between the back face of the semiconductor wafer and the chuck, there would be a risk that the gas might be leaked along the joining interface of the chuck and cooling flange. In particular, thermal cycles are applied in a system for producing semiconductors, it is demanded to secure the air-tightness along the joining interface between the chuck and flange with excellent reliability. It is thus preferred to apply a pressure during the joining process. On the other hand, when a pressure during the joining process is too large, an adhesive may be leaked outside of the joining interface of the chuck and cooling flange. Further, the thickness of the adhesive may not be uniform or changed among articles actually produced.

(0005) For the above reasons, it is demanded to improve the air-tightness of the joining interface, to prevent the leakage of an adhesive and to improve the adhesion along the interface of the adhesive layer and chuck, when the chuck and metal member is joined. Particularly, it is difficult to adequately wet a ceramics with an adhesive, so that it is difficult to improve the adhesiveness along the interface microscopically.

(0006) An object of the present invention is to provide a process for joining a first member containing at least ceramics and a second member containing at least a metal or a metal composite, so that the air-tightness of the joining portion may be improved, the leakage of an adhesive is prevented and the adhesion along the interface of the adhesive layer and ceramics may be improved.

(0007)

[Means for solving the Problem]

The present invention provides a method of producing a joined body of a first member containing at least ceramics and a second member containing at least a metal or a metal composite. The method has the steps of:

providing an adhesive composed of a metal containing at least indium and a material for reducing melting point containing at least a component capable of reducing the melting point of indium between the first and second members to provide a laminate; and

heating the laminate at a temperature in solid-liquid coexisting range of an alloy comprising indium and the component to join the first and second members.

(0008) The present invention further provides a joined body produced by the above method.

(0009) The present invention still further provides a joined body comprising a first member containing at least ceramics, a second member

containing at least a metal or a metal composite and a joining layer provided between the first and second members. The joining layer has a phase of an alloy containing indium and a component capable of reducing the melting point of indium.

(0010) The present inventors have reached the following process. That is, a joining material composed of a metal containing at least indium and a material containing at least a component capable of reducing the melting point of indium is provided between the first and second members to provide a laminate. The laminate is then heated at a temperature in solid-liquid coexisting range of an alloy comprising indium and the component to join the first and second members.

(0011) When indium is heated at a temperature higher than the melting point of indium and molten, leakage of the molten indium may easily occur. Contrary to this, such leakage may be effectively prevented according to the present invention, even when a substantially high pressure is applied. The reason is considered as follows. When the adhesive is heated at a temperature higher than the melting point, the whole of the adhesive is inevitably molten uniformly. The adhesive is thus flown and may be easily leaked from the interface between the first and second members, when a high pressure is applied on the adhesive. Contrary to this, according to the present invention, indium and the alloy-forming component are not uniformly molten. It is considered that the melting process starts from the interface of indium and the alloy-forming component, and the molten region is diffused and enlarged slowly from the starting point. Most of the adhesive is of solid phase and may not be easily deformed when a pressure is applied during the heating process.

(0012) In addition to this, according to this joining method, it is proved to be possible to maintain the air-tightness of the joining portion and to

considerably improve the adhesion along the interface between the adhesive layer and ceramics.

(0013)

[Embodiments of the invention]

The present invention will be described further, referring to the attached drawings.

Fig. 1 is a drawing schematically showing a joined article 25 according to one embodiment of the invention. The joined article 25 is composed of an electrostatic chuck 10, a cooling flange 12 and a joining layer 14. The chuck 10 has an electrode 18 for electrostatic chuck embedded therein. A terminal 20 is connected with the electrode 18. The electrostatic chuck 10 has an adsorption face for supporting and adsorbing a semiconductor wafer 16. In the example, a through hole 24 is provided through the cooling flange 12 and chuck 10. A back side gas, such as argon gas or nitrogen gas, may be supplied through the through hole 24 as an arrow 22. Further, through holes (not shown) may be provided in the cooling flange 12 and chuck 10 for inserting lift pins for lifting the semiconductor wafer from the adsorption face.

(0014)

A process for producing a joined article 25 such as that shown in Fig. 1 will be described, referring to Figs. 2 and 3. In Figs. 2 and 3, the detailed structure of the electrostatic chuck or cooling flange shown in Fig. 1 are omitted for the purpose of providing a general explanation of the process according to the invention.

(0015)

The first member 10 and second member 12 are joined with each other as shown in Figs. 2(a), (b) and 3. The first member 10 contains at least a ceramics. The whole of the first member 10 may be made of a ceramics. Alternatively, the first member 10 has a main body having a joining face 10b to be joined and a ceramics covering the joining face 10b. In the latter case, the main

body of the first member may be made of a metal, a metal composite or ceramic composite.

(0016) The first member may be made of a ceramic material including an oxide ceramics such as alumina, calcium titanate, barium titanate and a nitride ceramics. Silicon nitride and sialon are preferred among nitride ceramics for further improving the resistance of the first member against thermal stress. Aluminum nitride is preferred for improving the anti-corrosion property against a fluorine-based corrosive gas and thermal conductivity.

(0017) The kind of the first member is not particularly limited. For example, the first member may be used in a system for producing semiconductors, and may preferably be a susceptor for mounting semiconductors. Such susceptor may have any and various functions as long as it may work as a susceptor for setting a semiconductor wafer. For example, when an electrode for electrostatic chuck is provided inside of the substrate of the member, such member may be used as an electrostatic chuck system. Alternatively, when a resistance heating element is provided inside of the substrate, the supporting member may be used as a ceramic heater. Further, when an electrode for generating plasma is provided inside of the substrate, the supporting member may be used as an electrode device for generating plasma. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the supporting member is an electrostatic chuck.

(0018) The second member 12 contains at least a metal or metal composite. The whole of the second member 12 may be made of a metal or metal composite. Alternatively, the second member 12 has a main body having a joining face 12a be joined and a metal or metal composite film covering the joining face 12a. In the latter case, the main body of the second member may be made of a ceramics or ceramic composite.

(0019) The second member may be made of a metal not particularly

limited. The metal may be aluminum, copper, stainless steel, nickel or the alloys thereof, when the second member is to be exposed against a halogen based corrosive gas.

(0020) The second member may be made of a metal composite not particularly limited. The metal composite may be composed of a metal component including aluminum alloy or copper alloy and a ceramic component including SiC, AlN or alumina.

(0021) The application or function of the second member is not particularly limited. In a preferred embodiment, the second member is a cooling system having a cooling mechanism. A refrigerant used for the cooling mechanism may be a liquid such as water and silicone oil and a gas such as air and an inert gas.

(0022) As shown in Figs. 2(a) and (b), an adhesive 2 and materials 1A and 1B are provided between the first member 10 and second member 12 to provide a laminate 13, according to the present invention. The adhesive 2 is made of a metal containing at least indium. The materials 1A and 1B contain at least a component capable of reducing the melting point of indium. The laminate 13 is then heated at a temperature in solid-liquid phase coexisting temperature of an alloy of indium and the component.

(0023) The metal adhesive 2 is pure indium metal or the alloy of indium. The pure indium metal may contain inevitable impurities. The alloy of indium may contain gold, silver, tin, lead, titanium, magnesium or the alloys thereof. The amount of the metal or metals other than indium in the alloy may preferably be not larger than 10 weight percent.

(0024) The shape of the adhesive is not particularly limited. According to the present invention, however, the melting process takes place from the interface of the adhesive 2 and material 1A or 1B at a temperature lower than

the melting point of indium. After the melting process, a joining layer containing an indium alloy is generated between the first member 10 and second member 12. For facilitating the reaction of generating the alloy, the thickness of the adhesive 2 may preferably be not larger than 500 micrometer, and more preferably be not larger than 300 micrometer. On the similar viewpoint, the adhesive 2 may preferably be a metal foil.

(0025) When the thickness of the adhesive 2 is too thin, the state of the adhesive may be deviated. For further improving the air-tightness of the joining interface, the thickness of the adhesive 2 may preferably be not smaller than 20 micrometer.

(0026) The shape of the material 1A or 1B for reducing the melting point is not particularly limited. For improving the reaction of indium and the component for generating the alloy over the whole of the adhesive uniformly, the material may preferably have a shape of a foil or film.

(0027) When the thickness of the material for reducing the melting point is too large, the reaction of the material and indium might be insufficient. On this viewpoint, the thickness of the material for reducing the melting point may preferably be not larger than 50 micrometer, and more preferably be not larger than 30 micrometer. On the other hand, when the material for reducing the melting point is too thin, the state of the adhesive layer may be deviated. For further improving the air-tightness of the joining interface, thickness of the material for reducing the melting point may preferably be not smaller than 1 micrometer and more preferably be not smaller than 3 micrometer.

(0028) The material for reducing the melting point may be provided between the adhesive 2 and first member 10, and/or between the adhesive 2 and second member 12. In a preferred embodiment, the material for reducing the melting point is provided at least between the adhesive 2 and first member 10. It

is effective to provide the material on the side of the first member 10 for wetting the surface of the ceramics (first member) 10 having a low wettability with the adhesive.

(0029) According to the present invention, the adhesive composed of a metal containing at least indium and the material containing at least a component capable of reducing the melting point of indium is provided between the first and second members to provide a laminate. The laminate is then heated at a temperature in solid-liquid coexisting range of an alloy comprising indium and the component. The alloy is mainly composed of indium and the component. The solid-liquid phase coexisting temperature means a solid-liquid phase coexisting temperature corresponding with the composition of the alloy. The solid-liquid coexisting temperature is changed depending on the composition of indium alloy and may be judged from a phase diagram.

(0030) The component of the alloy is not particularly limited, as long as the component functions to reduce the melting point of indium. The component may preferably be a metal selected from the group consisting of tin and silver and the alloys thereof.

(0031) More preferably, the component is pure tin, or an alloy of tin and silver, lead, titanium or magnesium. Inevitable impurities may be contained in pure tin. The tin alloy may preferably contain 3 weight percent or less of the metal component other than tin.

(0032) The heat treatment may preferably be performed at a temperature of not lower than 90 °C and not higher than 155 °C. It is possible to further reduce the air-tightness of the joining interface by the heat treatment at a temperature not lower than 90 °C. On this viewpoint, the temperature may preferably be not lower than 95 °C and more preferably be not lower than 100 °C.

(0033) When the component is tin or the alloy of tin, the

temperature for the heat treatment may preferably be not lower than 120 °C so as to proceed the melting process of the adhesive and material for reducing the melting point.

(0034) In a preferred embodiment, the laminate is heated while the laminate is subjected to isostatic pressurizing. It is thus possible to maintain the air-tightness of the joining interface and to prevent the deterioration of the flatness of the supporting face of a semiconductor mounting member after the joining process.

(0035) Further, for example in an electrostatic chuck, it is necessary to provide various holes such as a hole for supplying a gas, holes for lift pins, and holes for inserting terminals. In this case, it is needed to provide a hole in a cooling flange communicating with each of the above holes formed in the chuck. When the holes are provided in the first and second members, respectively, and communicated with each other, it is indispensable to further improve the air-tightness along the joining interface of the first and second members. It is also necessary to prevent the flow of the adhesive into the holes and the extrusion of the adhesive.

(0036) In the above embodiment, a first hole is provided in the first member, a second hole is provided in the second member, and the both holes are communicated with each other. In this embodiment, it is preferred to provide an air-tight sealing member between the first and second holes and the adhesive so that the air-tight sealing member is directly contacted with the first and second members for sealing, when the first and second members are laminated. The holes are thereby sealed with the air-tight sealing member and further sealed with the joining layer according to the present invention, so that the air-tightness may be further improved. At the same time, it is possible to prevent the extrusion of the adhesive into the holes. As a result, when mass production is to

be performed, it is possible to improve the production yield of products having desired air-tightness.

(0037) The kind or material of the air-tight sealing member is not particularly limited. It is preferred to apply a sealing member capable of exhibiting excellent air-tightness when a pressure is applied from the first and second members, such as an O-ring or gasket. A rubber O-ring commonly used for a vacuum system may be applied. Preferably, an O-ring is made of a material for reducing particle generation used for a semiconductor production system.

(0038) Preferred embodiments will be described further in detail below. As shown in Fig. 2(a), a material 1A for reducing melting point is provided on a joining face 10b of a first member 10, and a material 1B for reducing melting point is provided on a joining face 12a of a second member 12. The materials 1A and 1B are foils or films. Such film may be formed by means of any processes including ion plating, chemical vapor deposition, physical vapor deposition, organic metal chemical vapor deposition, vapor deposition, sputtering and plating methods.

(0039) The thus obtained assembly 13 is heated while it is subjected to isostatic pressing. The actual methods applied for performing the heating and isostatic pressing of the assembly 13 are not particularly limited. Typically, as shown in Fig. 2(b), the assembly 13 is vacuum packaged in a packaging film 3 and then contained in a sealed container filled with an inert gas. The vacuum packaged assembly is subjected to isostatic pressing with the inert gas in the sealed container. Alternatively, the assembly may be subjected to isostatic pressing with a liquid.

(0040) The material of the film 3 is not particularly limited, as long as it has elasticity and thermal resistance at a temperature applied for heating the assembly. The inert gas may be nitrogen, argon or a mixed gas of nitrogen

and argon. The pressure of the inert gas in the sealed container is not limited as long as it is effective for producing a joined article having a sufficiently high air-tightness. The pressure of the gas may preferably be not lower than 5 atm for further improving the air-tightness of the joined article. The upper limit of the gas pressure is not particularly set on the viewpoint of the invention. The pressure may preferably be not higher than 100 atm and more preferably not higher than 20 atm from the practical point of view. The heating temperature was described above.

(0041) The sealed container is not particularly limited and preferably an autoclave.

(0042) In a preferred embodiment, as shown in Fig. 3, a vacuum packaged assembly 13 is contained in an autoclave 4, and then heated and pressed. A gas source 6 is connected through a gas passage 5 in the autoclave 4. A heater 7 is also contained in the autoclave 4 and the calorific power of the heater is controlled with a power controller 8. A fan 9 is provided in the front of the heater 7 for reducing the temperature deviation in the autoclave.

(0043) It is not needed that the material for reducing melting point be provided on the both sides of the adhesive as described above. For example, as shown in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b), the material 1A may be provided between the adhesive 2 and first member 10.

(0044) In a preferred embodiment, the assembly is subjected to isostatic pressing while heating the assembly at the maximum temperature. That is, as shown in Fig. 5, the pressure is adjusted at a specified value "P1" during the maximum temperature "T1" (from the time points "t2" to "t3".)

(0045) In a preferred embodiment, the isostatic pressing is continued during the temperature reduction period after "t3" (the end of maximum temperature period). In a particularly preferred embodiment, the

isostatic pressing is continued to "t4" (the end of the temperature reduction period to room temperature T4). It is found that the continued isostatic pressing may be effective for further improving the flatness of the supporting face of the supporting member after the joining process.

(0046) In the joined article of the present invention, the flatness of the supporting face of the supporting member may preferably be not larger than 30 μm and more preferably be not larger than 10 μm .

(0047) A joined body 15A is thus obtained as schematically shown in Fig. 6(a). The joined body 15A has a first member 10, second member 12 and a joining layer 14 joining the members. The joining layer 14 has inhomogeneous microstructure containing indium alloy phase. A through hole 21 is provided in the joined body 15B shown in Fig. 6(b).

(0048)

[EXAMPLES]

(Experiment "A")

A joined article 15B shown in Fig. 6 (b) was produced. Specifically, the first member 10 and second member 12 were prepared, as shown in Fig. 2(a). The first member 10 had a shape of a rectangular parallelepiped with a length of 50 mm, a width of 50 mm and a thickness of 10 mm and made of aluminum nitride. The second member 12 had a shape of a rectangular parallelepiped with a length of 50 mm, a width of 50 mm and a thickness of 10 mm and made of aluminum A 6061 alloy. Five through holes each having a diameter of 3 mm was provided in each of the members.

(0049) An indium foil 2 and foils 1A and 1B of materials for reducing melting point were provided between the first member 10 and second member 12 (Experimental numbers A2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9). Alternatively, films of the material for reducing melting point were formed on both faces 10b and 12a by sputtering

process (A1, 4). The indium foil 2 was made of pure indium having a purity of 99.9 percent. The foil had a length of 50 mm, width of 50 mm and a thickness of 0.2 mm (deviation of ± 10 percent). The material and thickness of the material for reducing melting point were changed as shown in table 1.

(0050) The assembly was then vacuum packaged and contained in an autoclave 4 maintained at vacuum. The assembly was then subjected to heating and isostatic pressing according to the schedule shown in Fig. 5. That is, the inner pressure was elevated to 14 atm "t1", and the temperature was then elevated from room temperature to heating temperatures shown in table 1. A pressure of 14 atm was then maintained for 5 hours. The temperature was then reduced to room temperature while the pressure was maintained at 14 atm. The pressure was finally reduced to 1 atm and the resultant joined article 15B was removed from the autoclave.

(0051) In the thus obtained joined article 15B, one end of the through hole 21 was sealed with a rubber plate 19, and the other end of the through hole was connected to a tube 26 of a system for detecting helium gas leakage using an O-ring 23, as shown in Fig. 6 (b). Helium gas was supplied to the outside of the joined article 15B to measure the gas leakage. When the leakage amount of helium gas was lower than 1×10^{-8} Pam³/s, the test result was indicated as "OK" in table 1. When the leakage amount of helium gas was higher than 1×10^{-8} Pam³/s, the test result was indicated as "NG" in table 1.

(0052) Further, ultrasonic defect detection test was performed from the side of the surface 10a of the joined article 15B. Echo from the joining interface of AlN and joining layer 14 was developed to obtain an image and evaluated. In the image, whitish regions correspond with defects, and blackish regions indicate excellent adhesion. The combination of the whitish and blackish regions indicates inhomogeneous adhesion.

(0053)

Table 1

Experiment	Material for Reducing Melting Point	Thickness (μm)	Joining condition		Results	
			Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Pressure (atm)	Sealing Property	Ultrasonic Detection
A 1	Sn Sputtering	3	135	14	OK	Excellent Uniform Adhesion
A 2	Sn Foil	15	135	14	OK	Excellent Uniform Adhesion
A 3	Sn Foil	30	135	14	OK	Excellent Uniform Adhesion
A 4	Ag Sputtering	3	135	14	OK	Excellent Uniform Adhesion
A 5	Ag Foil	10	135	14	OK	Excellent Uniform Adhesion
A 6	Ag Foil	30	135	14	OK	Excellent Uniform Adhesion
A 7	None	—	153	14	OK	Poor Adhesion Irregularities
A 8	Sn foil	15	160	14	NG	—
A 9	Sn foil	15	160	14	Not Joined	—

(0054) In the experimental numbers A1 to 6, the material composed of silver and tin was used, and the heat treatment was performed at 135 °C in a range of solid-liquid coexisting temperature of indium-silver alloy or indium-tin alloy. As a result, the amount of helium leakage was low. The joining interface between the joining layer and first member exhibited excellent contact and adhesion, judging from the results of the ultrasonic defect detection test.

(0055) On the contrary, in the experimental number A7, only the indium foil was used and heated at 153 °C. As a result, although the amount of helium gas leakage was proved to be low, many whitish regions and irregularities were observed along the joining interface of the joining layer and first member, judging from the results of the ultrasonic defect detection test. In the experimental number A8, a tin foil was used and heated at 160 °C, which is higher than the melting point of indium-tin alloy and not within the liquid-solid coexisting temperature range. As a result, indium was leaked out of the interface between the first and second members, leading to sealing defects. In the experimental number A9, a tin foil was used and heated at 100 °C. 100 °C was not within the liquid-solid coexisting temperature range of an indium-tin alloy. As a result, the first and second members were not joined.

(0056) (Experiment B)

The joined article 15C as shown in Fig. 7 was produced, according to the same procedure described in the experiment A. However, each of the first member 10 and second member 12 had a length of 25 mm, width of 35 mm and a thickness of 10 mm. The indium foil 2 had a length of 25 mm, width of 25 mm and a thickness of 0.2 mm. Each of the materials 1A and 1B for reducing melting point had a length of 25 mm and width of 25 mm. The other conditions were the same as those applied in the experiment "A" to obtain the joined article

15C. The conditions were shown in table 2.

(0057) The thus obtained article 15C was supported by a jig 28 shown in Fig. 7. A shear load was applied on each joined article 15C using an autograph as an arrow "A" in a direction parallel with the joining layer 17 at a speed of 0.5 mm/minute. The peeling strength was thus measured. The results were shown in table 2.

(0058)

table 2

Experiment	Material for Reducing Melting	Thickness (μm)	Joining condition		Shear Strength (MPa)
			Temperature $^{\circ}\text{C}$	Pressure (atm)	
B 1	S n Sputtering	3	1 3 5	1 4	1 . 5
B 2	S n foil	1 5	1 3 5	1 4	2 . 1
B 3	S n foil	3 0	1 3 5	1 4	1 . 8
B 4	A g Sputtering	3	1 3 5	1 4	1 . 1
B 5	A g foil	1 0	1 3 5	1 4	1 . 0
B 6	A g foil	3 0	1 3 5	1 4	0 . 8
B 7	None	—	1 5 3	1 4	0 . 4
B 8	S n foil	1 5	1 6 0	1 4	1 . 1
B 9	S n foil	1 5	1 6 0	1 4	0 . 0

(0059) Samples of the experimental numbers B1 to B6 proved to have high shear strengths. In the number B7, only the indium foil was used and heated at 153 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. The resulting joined body had a low shear strength of 0.4 MPa.

The low strength is due to the deteriorated adhesion along the joining interface. In the experimental number B8, tin foils were used and heated at 160 °C higher than the melting point of indium. Although the resulting joined body had a high shear strength, indium were leaked out of the gap of the members to be joined. In the experimental number B9, a tin foil was used and heated at 100 °C. As a result, the first and second members were successfully not joined with each other.

(0060) (Experiment C)

The joined body of Fig. 6(a) was produced according to the same procedure as described in the Experiment "A". However, the first member 10 had a shape of a disk having a diameter ϕ of 300 mm and a thickness of 20 mm. The second member 12 had a shape of a disk having a diameter ϕ of 300 mm and a thickness of 10 mm. The indium foil had a diameter of 300 mm and a thickness of 0.2 mm. The material for reducing the melting point had a shape of a foil with a diameter of 300 mm and a thickness and composition shown in table 3. The thus obtained joined body was subjected to measurement of helium leakage and an ultrasonic crack detection.

(0061)

Table 3

Experiment	Material For Reducing Melting Point	Thickness (μm)	Joining condition		Results	
			Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Pressure (atm)	Sealing Property	Ultrasonic Detection
C 1	S n foil	1 5	1 3 5	1 4	OK	Excellent And Uniform Adhesion
C 2	A g foil	1 0	1 3 5	1 4	OK	Excellent and Uniform Adhesion
C 3	None	—	1 5 3	1 4	OK	Poor adhesion Irregura: Lities
C 4	S n foil	1 5	1 6 0	1 4	NG	
C 5	S n foil	1 5	1 0 0	1 4	NG	

(0062)

The resulting joined bodies of the experimental numbers C1 and C2 were proved to have excellent sealing property and ultrasonic detection results. In the experimental number C3, only the indium foil was used and

heated at 153 °C. Although the resulting joined body had excellent sealing property, the adhesion along the joining interface was deteriorated. In the experimental number C4, the tin foil was also used and heated at 160 °C higher than the melting point of an indium-tin alloy. The resulting joined body had deteriorated sealing property. The reasons may be as follows. A pressure was applied on the heated and molten indium metal so that the molten indium are flown out of the gap between the first and second members. The amount of indium is thus insufficient in a part of the joining interface. Such tendency may be more considerable as the joined area is increased as in the present example. In the experimental number C5, the tin foil was also used and heated at 100 °C. As a result, the first and second members were not successfully joined.

(0063) (Experiment "D")

The joined body shown in Figs. 8(a) and (b) was produced, according to the same procedure as described in the experiment "A". However, a through hole 21A with a diameter of 3 mm was formed in the first member 10A. A step portion 10c with an outer diameter of 10 mm was formed in an opening on the side of the joining face 10b of the through hole 21A. Further, a through hole 21B having a diameter of 3 mm was formed in the second member 12. The indium foil and material for reducing melting point were provided between the first and second members. An O-ring 23 with an outer diameter of 10 mm and inner diameter of 6 mm was set inside of the step portion 10c. The O-ring 23 is directly contacted with the pressurized face 10d of the first member 10A and joining face 12a of the second member 12, while the contact of the O-ring 23 with the metal joining material is prevented. The inner space 30 of the O-ring 23 is communicated with holes 21A and 21B. The joining process was performed as described in the experiment "A". After the joining process, the space 30 and holes 21A and 21B were air-tightly sealed with the O-ring 23.

(0064) (Production yield test).

10 joined bodies 15B (see Fig. 6(b)) of the Experiment "A" type were produced. The sealing property was evaluated as described above so that the production yield was proved to be 80 percent.

(0065) Contrary to this, 10 joined bodies 15D (see Fig. 8) of the experiment "D" type were produced. The sealing property was evaluated as described above so that the production yield was proved to be 100 percent. It is thus possible to further improve the yield of the body having the excellent sealing property along the joining interface, by providing an O-ring inside of the joining layer.

(0066)

[Advantages of the invention]

As described above, the invention provides a process for joining a first member containing at least ceramics and a second member containing at least a metal or a metal composite, so that the air-tightness of the joining portion may be improved, the leakage of an adhesive is prevented and the adhesion along the interface of the adhesive layer and ceramics may be improved.

[Brief description of the Drawings]

[Fig. 1] Fig. 1 is a drawing schematically showing a joined article 25 according to one embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 2] Fig. 2 (a) is a drawing schematically showing a supporting member 10 for a semiconductor wafer, a metal member 12, a foil 2 made of a metal adhesive and materials for reducing melting point of indium interposed between the members 10 and 12, and Fig. 2 (b) schematically shows an assembly 13 vacuum packaged with a packaging film 3.

[Fig. 3] Fig. 3 is a diagram schematically showing the vacuum packaged assembly 13 contained in an autoclave 4.

[Fig. 4] Fig. 4 (a) is a drawing schematically showing a supporting member 10 for a semiconductor wafer, a metal member 12, a foil 2 made of a metal adhesive and a material 1A for reducing melting point of indium interposed between the members 10 and 12, and Fig. 4 (b) schematically shows an assembly 13 vacuum packaged with a packaging film 3.

[Fig. 5] Fig. 5 is a graph schematically showing an example of a schedule of temperature and pressure during the joining process of the invention.

[Fig. 6] Fig. 6 (a) schematically showing a joined article 15A, and Fig. 6 (b) schematically showing a joined article 15B.

[Fig. 7] Fig. 7 is a diagram showing a joined article 15C and a method for testing its shear strength.

[Fig. 8] Fig. 8 (a) is a cross sectional view schematically showing a joined article 15D, and Fig. 8 (b) is a cross sectional view taken along a line VIII-VIII of Fig. 8(a).

[Description of reference characters]

- 1A, 1B Component capable of reducing melting point
- 2 Metal adhesive
- 6 Gas source
- 7 Heater
- 10 First member
- 10a Surface of first member
- 10b Joining face of first member
- 12 Second member
- 12a Joining face of second member 12
- 13 Assembly
- 14 Joining layer
- 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D Joined body

21A First hole

21B Second hole

23 Air-tight sealing material

[Document Name] Drawings

[Document Name] Abstract

[Abstract]

[Object] To provide a process for joining a first member containing at least ceramics and a second member containing at least a metal or a metal composite, so that the air-tightness of the joining portion may be improved, the leakage of an adhesive is prevented and the adhesion along the interface of the adhesive layer and ceramics may be improved.

[Means for solution] A first member 10 containing at least ceramics and a second member 12 containing at least a metal or a metal composite was joined with each other. An adhesive 2 composed of a metal containing at least indium and materials 1A, 1B containing at least a component capable of reducing the melting point of indium between the first and second members to provide a laminate 13. The laminate 13 is heated at a temperature in solid-liquid coexisting range of an alloy comprising indium and said component to join the first member 10 and second member 12.

[Selected drawing] Fig. 2